Informer: LMP-S2 **Spanish**
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(Music in background)
S2: Put it in the bottle. They ate the chicken.

RD: San Simon is reveling.

S2: reveling! I wish you had been here to film the women that came because they gave a good show.

RD: They gave a good show?

S2: Yes!

RD: Should I film you?

CH: What do I have to do Carlos?

S2: Ask of him there (inaudible)

CH: How do I clean myself?

S2: (instructs her-inaudible) . . . Hondurans and Salvadorans came, but it was the Hondurans that were the live ones!

RD: The Salvadorans were not as loud? But we're from El Salvador!

S2: The Hondurans could not hold back!

RD: Look, people from Honduras and Nicaragua are the happiest.

S2: They could not hold back, they started dancing!

RD: They, they, they say we're the happiest, but you know what Honduras and Nicaragua are the happiest and if you go to Costa Rica they are even happier. Salvadoran women are a bit more modest.

S2: But they were joking and mocking each other and cracking up! Others were one of Guatemala and another from Mexico and three Salvadorans.

RD: You must have be happy then

S2: Oh, no, I tell you they've been here since 9:00 a.m! (laughs) They danced for Simon. This was big!

RD: Listen to this, one of these days I saw a report on San Simon on television; they showed a photo of this man; a handsome man in real life; he was a wholesome, handsome man.

S2: Really. (laughs)

RD: I thought people just made representations of him, but no, I saw his photos. They are showing photos of him. . . . I would turn it on and it would turn off, I'd turn it on and it would go off, I'd turn it on and it would turn off, and I was worried because it did not want to light--

CH: --The black candle (vela)?

RD: the black candle. And when it lit it burned so fast that it didn't leave a single sign. The other candle was very tranquil; it lasted three or four days. And after that since I, I still have the water with the glass below it. I was going to call you, but my family went to New York and when she travels far from me I stay asking everything that all goes well for her and that she return soon. So all of that got me a bit nervous and I didn't call you or visit you on Friday, which was the day I was supposed to see you. Well, that's what happened and kept me from telling you about the candles.

S2: Look, you need to write the name of your enemies here from top to bottom (referring to a black candle).

RD: So that they show?

S2: Yes. . . . What ever way you can do it, you just pass it over yourself to cleanse yourself.

S2: Look, all the cats ate the chicken!

CH: Do you have cats?

S2: There's like 100 here.

RD: But they're not yours?

S2: They belong to the whole neighborhood because everyone feeds them.

RD: (laughs) Don Carlos!

S2: When I least expect it they are pregnant and raising their babies there. I brought one from my old place; she got there by herself when she was little. I took her in to the house

because I fed her there and the dogs and they could not enter the house. So the cat would enter through a hole in the chimney and get out. She didn't go into the yard rather out front. We grew much affection for her because when I go home from work she waited for me at the entrance. I crossed the street to visit a black woman who called me to come over. She'd say, "come over, I have food ready so we can eat." I would get there, when I got home from work she'd have food ready; When I got there she'd have a plate ready for me to eat at her home with her. (inaudible) I liked her food a lot. Since I worked with black people for many years I learned to eat everything they cook--

RD: --Oh yes, it's good!

S2: --Yes, so she always had something special for me, and her husband, but they were elderly and the cat would follow me across the street and she climbed onto the window to the dining room to watch me sit and eat. I liked her because she was like a little dog. I brought her here, but I couldn't keep her because the dogs chased her and she began having babies--

RD: --She left with a cat because it appears as though they stay with the cat they first mate with.

S2: I kept the babies and they began to have babies and I fed them all and they began to--

RD: --leave

S2: And I kept the different ones and now I see different ones, the black, grey cats that are not mine. I know the ones that are mine.

RD: Are other people going to come?

S2: They'll be here later.

RD: Oh, what a shame.

S2: It's Monday and a lot of people work.

RD: Yes, and you have to do this especially on the main day.

S2: I would have liked to do it yesterday but

RD: Yes, because yesterday was very lively.

S2: Yes, but since this is his main day

RD: yes.

S2: Stand (recites inaudible prayers under his breath as he cleans her; repeats Simon, Simon, Simon . . .) Okay, done.

RD: How refreshing, thank you.

S2: (laughs) Now if you want it's your turn.

CH: Okay.

RD: Now they will work on you. Should I leave it like this daughter?

CH: yes, yes, that's fine. What's that, Florida water?

S2: Violets

CH: Violets.

S2: (recites prayers under breath as he cleans CH) Ready.

RD: Okay.

CH: Thank you.

RD: Thank you Don Carlos.

S2: How do you feel?

CH: Good.

RD: Very well.

CH: And you?

S2: Good also.

CH: You don't get tired after giving cleansings (limpias)?

S2: No.

RD: But last time I left you tired right; I left you very drained.

S2: This is like that, but it rehabilitates.

CH: Really.

S2: It gives strength. The spritual is something--

RD: --good.

CH: Can I ask you a few questions about San Simon's birthday?

S2: Sure, ask me child.

RD: Let's sit.

CH: Why did you decide to celebrate today?

S2: To give him thanks; gratitude, and for personal things that I am asking him for. (laughs) In gratitude.

CH: Okay. Today you did not open your botánica, right?

S2: No, no. I'm dedicating this day especially to him.

CH: For him. Did a lot of people come during the day?

S2: A lot. In one single moment nine people came! (laughs) And there are more on the way.

RD: But you look very healthy today.

S2: Thank you. It's his presence, his essence that makes one--

CH: --And how did your day go?

S2: Good! Good, good, good. (inaudible)

CH: Did anything extraordinary occur? Anything that--

S2: No, only what you feel; you feel the spirit--

CH: Okay.

RD: Like if the spirit walks in everything, right?

S2: You feel. Yes, of course, you feel it. You feel the essence. You feel--

RD: Do I get to take candles today?

S2: No, you already cleansed yourself with--

RD: --With this one. So not until next Friday when I visit you.

S2: Until Friday when you come over.

CH: Okay then Carlos I thank you.

S2: Thank you both.

CH: Thank you as always.

RD: Thank you.

S2: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

RD: One question--

S2: --Tell me--

RD: --indiscreet and may San Simon forgive me if it offensive. Are there times when you place a glass of wine [before him] and it finishes--

S2: --it finishes.

RD: That's my question.

S2: Yes. He drinks it.

RD: Does he drink something special?

S2: Usually they give him el venado (the deer) [rum]

RD: el venado (the deer)

S2: Or hard liquor, any type of hard liquor.

RD: But it must be hard liquor.

S2: Mmhh.

RD: Because they had told me, but I wanted to make certain.

S2: Yes, because this is the wine they give him from Guatemala

RD: (to CH) This is the wine that he drinks and he (S2) says he finishes it.

CH: Okay.